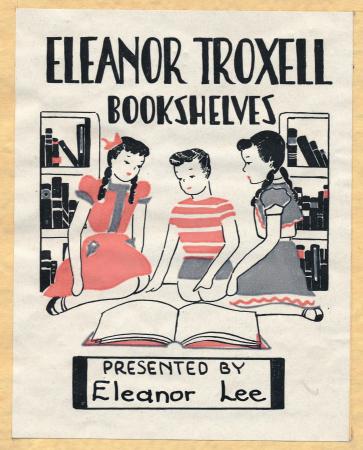




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DEDICATION



NOVEMBER 22, 1944

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Miss Eleanor Troxell, for fifteen years Supervisor of Early Elementary Grades in Kalamazoo, passed away on May 29th 1943, after a comparatively brief illness. A suggestion that BOOK SHELVES for children, named after her, would be a fitting way to express the warm affection in which she was held, was made by Miss Irma Archbold and Miss Beatrice Bacome. The suggestion found a ready response.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman, president of the Early Elementary Club for 1943-44 was instrumental in making the BOOK SHELVES an actuality. Her committees included persons from many groups in the city who admired and loved Miss Troxell.

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The dedication of the SHELVES culminated the work of the committees. It was held in the Woodward Elementary Auditorium in November 1943, near the date of Miss Troxell's birthday.

The participants, seated upon the stage which had been arranged as a comfortable, softly-lighted living room, chatted informally with each other, sharing their happy

memories of Eleanor Troxell.

This book, so beautifully lettered and illuminated by Miss Eleanor Lee, and bound by Miss Fillette Many, preserves the text of the talks presented at that time. It will prove an inspiration to all who read it, for it breathes out the beauty, unselfishness, vigor and inspiration of Eleanor Troxell's spirit.

Clara May Graybill.

Director, Elementary Education

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A Tribute to Miss Troxell.

We miss the kindly guiding hand Which once so well we knew. The hand that touched with kindly care
The work you did - and you.

She taught us how to live above Our daily frets and fears— That life is meant for happiness With little thought of tears.

It is not ours to say just when Her life with us would close When work and play on earth shall end,
But one—the Master—knows.

Life's work, at best, is short, compared With good that we may bring Her passing only guides us on To more and nobler things.

- Loy Norrix

June 2, 1943.

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were all closely associated with our very dear friend, Eleanor Troxell; some of us in one way, some in another. Yet I believe we are all agreed she inspired each of us with her sincerity and tireless efficiency, her deep devotion, her cheerful happy nature, and her helpful understanding of those with whom she worked.

Every person, every organization treasures these associations. The children and teachers with whom she worked

held first place in her heart.

Mary Helen Baker, you worked with Miss Troxell the entire time she was here. Will you tell us about her hopes for our children and the ideals she held for her teachers?

Elizabeth Bowman
President, Early Elementary Club

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with all the years of professional and personal contacts with Miss Troxell, I feel that perhaps I can speak, for the department as well as for the children and myself, in telling you something of those aspirations.

Who but a person who had in her heart a great affection for children, could have contributed so much to their welfare and happiness as did Eleanor Troxell—a real friend, a friendly friend—one whom our young children grew to respect and honor. They looked forward to her visits with them, welcomed her opinions and criticisms, and shared with her their accomplishments. Miss Troxell's recognition of and appreciation for the efforts of children helped them to sense her understanding and her friendliness toward them.

Striving for mastery of the fundamental learnings was only one of many goals she carried for children. She wished for them the beginnings of full living, apportunities for good citizenship, some tolerance

toward others, and lives rich in service

and real enjoyment.

The same qualities which helped to endear her to the children, did none the less for the teachers who worked with her. Miss Troxell naturally emanated a feeling of warmth and genuineness. A When she stepped into our rooms it was just as if one of the family had come in; all of us, children and teachers alike were at ease.

Always ready to give help or guidance, always mindful of the many demands brought upon us all by the times. Miss Troxell often went beyond her own strength to save others. I remember so well her characteristic little gait—almost a trot—hurrying here and there to give a bit of advice or encouragement, or to share as a spectator in some little program.

But with all of this, she still found some time for outside fun. She used to say to us, "Girls, do your work well—the best that you can—but make time and place too, in your living for some real fun. Do something different, something

unusual, something you have always wanted to do but have never yet had time for. Then take a little time each day just to live with yourselves." I am reminded here of a little quotation, which I think brings out very fittingly, a portion of Miss Troxell's philosophy. Let me read it for you:

"For yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision. But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well therefore unto today."

Because Miss Troxell did live so fully herself, and because she gave herself so freely to others, her teachings and influence will long be felt and cherished.

Mary Helen Baker, Teacher: I wonder, Dr. Norrix, if perhaps you do not share with us, many of these same feelings?

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It is very fitting that we should here dedicate these bookshelves to the memory of one who, in her lifetime, used books as the tools of her profession. Miss Troxell used books in the same manner as a carpenter uses a hammer or as a mason a trowel. Her workshop was filled with books.

She often talked with me concerning the building up of a background of experience for all children before they start to read. She wanted the child to be able to recognize orally the words which he would meet in the first grade. When the teacher called the child's attention to the word "cow", Miss Troxell wanted to be sure that the child knew what a cow was.

When she grew intolerant of the lack of information available to children, on nature and life around them, Miss Troxell wrote books to fill this need. A person who can not only teach skillfully, but who can also create her teaching materials, is

indeed a master teacher.

I was always impressed with Miss Troxell's ability to have her supervision accepted and desired by all her teachers. Never once did I recall having a single teacher tell me that Miss Troxell was asking more than she should. And yet her standards of teaching were high. She was firm but friendly; she was punctilious yet patient; everything she did was tempered with tolerance.

One lesson she taught well was that others were not to be troubled with her personal problems—she handled those herself. She asked no quarter and expected none. She never broke any rules that she expected others to keep. "Service Above Self" was a motto which was

the guiding principle of her work.

She was a constant inspiration to me. She was lavish with her praise of work she thought was well done.

To Miss Troxell, an author and lover of good books for children, it is appropriate that we here dedicate these bookshelves.

Loy Norrix-Superintendent of Schools

Miss Troxell was an ardent worker in the Parent-Teacher Association. As one of the staunch supporters of this organization, I wonder if you, Mrs. McDougal, have certain impressions you would like to mention.

was unable to learn how many years Miss Troxell was a member of the Parent-Teacher Association of Kalamazoo, but there is little question but that she was a member the entire time she served with the Kalamazoo Public Schools. We know that

she served long and faithfully.

During the years that she was a member of the Association Miss Troxell acted on several committees. One committee, a committee on housing, was of special interest for all of us who knew Miss Troxell knew of her great interest in the homes which sent boys and girls to our schools, and she was always trying to help in improving home conditions. Miss Troxell was a member of the Parent Education division of the Parent-Teacher Association for at least eight years, and during all that time was a member of the Central Committee-the committee which serves in a guiding capacity to the mothers

who are leaders in their respective schools. In the spring of 1942 the Parent-Teacher City Council decided to give to some one of its members a Life Membership in the

Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers. That Life Membership was given to Miss Troxell. I am told that when the committee met to decide who should be given this honor, no one but Miss Troxell was given consideration. The presentation was made at the annual meeting of the City Council on February 13, 1942, and in checking through the minutes of that meeting I found the following statement: "A surprise feature of the program followed when Miss Troxell was presented with a Life membership in the Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers in recognition and appreciation of her long years of service in Parent-Teacher work."

Also in the spring of 1942 when we in the Parent Education Division were not sure whether Miss Troxell would be with us after her resignation from the schools, we too decided to do something in her honor. We gave a surprise dinner, and it was truly a surprise, for she had no idea of the nature of the dinner until she stepped into the room. We had as guests fifty mothers who were either present or past

leaders and who were happy to attend a dinner in honor of one who had worked so faithfully with them. After the dinner Miss Troxell told us something of her early life, and after hearing her speak so informally of her childhood we felt that we knew just what made Miss Troxell 'Miss Troxell.'

When our committee met to choose a leader for the next year Miss Traxell was the one chosen. At first she hesitated in accepting because she was a teacher being asked to lead a group of mothers. Because of her sincerity and friendliness she had never set herself apart from the mothers and had not made us feel that she was a teacher while we were mere parents. We wanted her as our leader and she accepted the position. That summer she went away to school in order to take special classes in the parent education field and thus better acquaint her self with the work in order that she might offer a more worth while program.

When the opportunity came to make contributions to the memorial Bookshelves, we found our groups most anxious to respond.

The Leaders Group voted to contribute several books and there is now an order in for four or five books in the field of Parent Education. Individual groups have contributed. Parent Teacher Associations are responding and we feel sure that all of our groups will contribute.

Mrs. Russell McDougal for the Parent Teacher Association.

Dr. Batts, can you tell us of your contact with Miss Troxell?

Miss Troxell did soon comes face to face with two facts: first, that if the school have any hope for success in its task of educating a child, it must have the cooperation of the child's parents; and, second, that parents need to be shown how to cooperate with the school; that is, they need to be educated for the task of

being parents.

I did not know Miss Troxell very long, and that was during the last years of her life, but if I caught her educational philosophy at all, it was one that acknowledged the great difficulty of teaching, and the necessity, if this difficulty was ever to be solved, of a grand cooperation of all the influences that come to bear upon a child. To her teaching was a classroom affair, but it was also a great deal more; a hall-way affair, a street affair, a community affair, and pre-eminently a home affair. When I called on her and invited her to be chairman

of our P.T.A. Council committee on parent education, her readiness to serve in spite of her physical weakness reflected her conviction as to the importance of the home in the educational process.

All our tributes to the home as an effective educational institution - for example Wm. Ellery Channing said "The home is the chief school of human virtue"— are conditioned on the parents being intelligent, and on their having time and disposition to make the home's influence an influence for good. We see, therefore, the importance of this home-school relationship. All effort in this area is necessarily intangible, but I am sure Miss Troxell consciously worked in it, and made an important contribution to it. I bespeak the debt that parents of Kalamazoo owe to the life and work of Eleanor Troxell.

H. Lewis Batts- PTA Council.

Miss Walker, what did you like about Eleanor Troxell, and what was Eleanor like? Troxell

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Dr. Batts, you ask, "What was Eleanor like?" and "What did I like about Eleanor?" First, Eleanor would have loved this day which we have lived:

"A mist on the far horizon,

The infinite, tender sky" and have felt a spiritual accord with the closing lines of the stanza:

Some of us call it Autumn And others call it God."

What was Eleanor like?

If she exemplified the spirit of any one loved character in children's literature, it is the Little Red Hen." I will," said the Little Red Hen," and she did." There was such a perky persistence about Eleanor. We of the Child Welfare League knew that, over many years in relation to Nursery Schools; — she believed in them; worked for them; and doing so, interpreted the needs and natures of children so simply that we forgot how deeply astute was her understanding. Eleanor could tell

you what she meant without using a lingo that baffled; she could bring the underlying philosophy in words clear to the laity; not every educator can do that.

Eleanor was blessed with a twinkling geniality. True geniality does not need the ballast of jokefulness, so Eleanor Troxell seldom made a joke, but never missed one. Eugene Field, swinging an old copper kettle, saluted a friend, "Behold a man who once had \$10.00." Trotting along Burdick Street, an old tea-kettle in one hand and a new stew kettle in the other, Eleanor said, "For the Nursery Schools, and all for \$3.00!" Recalling the Field story, Eleanor replied, in the congratulatory tones of a woman, "You see, mine is truly a bargain!"

Perhaps we humans need imagination to bring understanding; perhaps if we have understanding, imagination is less needed.

One long holiday Eleanor traveled on boats from here to the far North Countries. "Little children love boats," she said, "they should have books about them." It was just as simple as that, for an understanding of the spirit of child needs made imaginings unnecessary. Many of our young folk at Western came to know children better as they felt the interlocking of Eleanor's spirit with that of the little ones.

Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary fratemity, chose Eleanor for state honorary membership. Eleanor had taught well many years; she had written books for children, yet these were but by-products. The real achievement was the ever present, unobtrusive woman who was never an exhibitionist, for self was but an instrument in some treasured quest. It was that spirit of an ever-present, exalted quest that made Eleanor one of our better women in the fore-rank of teaching, and brought to her an honorary membership in Delta Kappa Gamma.

We of the Child Welfare League, of Western, of Delta Kappa Gamma, are glad that books are to represent Eleanor Troxell to the children,

of now and the children of tomorrow; books of good cheer, of good hope, of good ideals: Red Hens, Elizabites, Treasure Islands, Little Women, Anguses, Ben Franklins books, and books, and books.....

Ellis J. Walker Western Michigan College rom Miss Troxell's deep reliance on the Bible-on the Word of God, as she understood it—came her source of happiness, faith and understanding. Miss Troxell was a member of the Christian Science organization for a period of nearly 50 years and she had been a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Kalamazoo for 15 years.

She had served her church in many capacities in the various cities where she had been a member. She had served as Reader, member of the Board of Directors, in the Sunday School and on many different committees. Those of us who had the privilege of thus working with her know of her

unswerving devotion to Principle.

This reliance on the Bible was elucidated and amplified, she felt, by the textbook of our organization, which is entitled "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy; these two books, used together, form the pastor of our church. Each morning Miss Troxell arose at an

early hour and studied these books, communing with God, deriving strength and stability, which led her "beside the still waters."

Her kindliness in making suggestions her words of encouragement, her compassion, her loyalty and integrity proved to be of great help to her associates. Her suggestions were always constructive; a building up; of a positive nature.

A sentence from one of her notes. she has left us, shows how strongly she felt on this matter: "The best part of our speaking should be before we open our mouths."

She adhered strictly to verses 30 and 31 of the 12th chapter of Mark's Gospel: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." Thou shalt love the neighbor as theself."

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Said Jesus, "Except ye become as little children ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven", and because of Miss Troxell's simple childlike faith she was able to inspire little children with her love and

joyousness.

One of the quotations from the Bible which was a source of constant inspiration to her and which she used a great deal in her work is found on page 3 of our program;—let us turn to it and repeat it tagether:

Whatsoever things are true,
Whatsoever things are honest,
Whatsoever things are just,
Whatsoever things are pure,
Whatsoever things are lovely,
Whatsoever things are of
good report;
If there be any virtue, and
if there be any praise,
Think on these things.
Philippians 4:8

Mrs. Winifred MacFee
First Church of Christ, Scientist.



Mrs. Dudley, since you were a very close friend of Miss Troxell's and worked with her in the Association for Childhood Education, in the Department of Supervisors of Instruction in the state of Michigan, and in various other organizations, will you tell us of some of your experiences and accomplishments?

Elegnor Troxell

has stood throughout the state of Michigan for leadership and contributions of outstanding worth to the cause of education of young children. Though always a busy person, she gave generously of her time and resources to groups outside her home community. We out in the state, feel that in a very real way, she has belonged to us also.

Miss Troxell's leadership was felt through her many talks to Childhood Education groups throughout the state - and in the Early Elementary groups of the Michigan Education Association. Leading panels, heading committees, advising out of her rich experience—these were the contributions which she made without stint. The Michigan Conference of Grade Supervisors was one of her great interests.

For two years Miss Troxell carried the presidency of the Michigan Branch, Association for Childhood Education. The organization was

then in its early struggles for recognition and a place of influence in early elementary education. I recall her continuing efforts in behalf of this group which resulted in the placing of the title "Association for Childhood Education" along with that of Early Elementary on the M.E.A. programs, and a genuine furtherance of understanding of young children.

Perhaps her most significant contribution was through the secretaryship of the national Association for Childhood Education, which was a very onerous job and which she carried for several years.

In all these group contacts, one found Miss Troxell always with a perky persistence in what she considered right for children. Though tempered with a generous tolerance for the opinions of others, she never gave up where the good of children was at stake.

Many teachers in this and other states are using in their work today an elementary science leaflet which was compiled by a committee of the Michigan A.C.E. which Eleanor Troxell headed the year following

her presidency of that organization. This was a tremendous piece of work since teachers throughout the state were given opportunity to contribute to it and it required a large amount of editing which Miss Troxell herself did in large part. Most would have rested following the two years of a state president's responsibility,—but not she. She had the talent and she used it most diligently in behalf of others.

True greatness lies in humility and unselfishness of service. Eleanor Troxell gave of these things in large measure. She was a

humble and a modest person.

And her work is not yet finished. Nearly two thousand years ago the greatest teacher the world has ever known said, "My works shall live after me." We can think of the work of Eleanor Troxell today in no other way than as a vital, vigorous entity which, through the children and the adults whom it has blessed, continues to go on and on.

It seems very fitting that those tools of learning which she loved and helped to create,—books—should be one of the means

through which her usefulness goes on. Mrs. McLean, will you tell us of the plans for this memorial? Dessalee Ryan Dudley Battle Creek Public Schools Troxell's visits to the children's department of the Public Library gave Miss Singley an insight into her varied interests and enthusiasms

regarding children's books.

Always before Book Week, she spent many hours going over new books, taking notes and gathering material for further presentations for her teachers to use with little children.

These interests and enthusiasms with which Miss Singley became familiar through the years have guided the committee, when the choice was left to its members, in the book selection.

One of Miss Troxell's chief interests was books on nature study for very young children.

She contributed to the field herself and took great delight in the works of her contemporaries. A great many books of this type have been selected-Lathrop's "Who Goes There," which describes the habits of small wild animals; Williamson's "Bear Story" and "Monkey Story"; Kane's "Bullfrog" and Martin's "Little Lamb."



An interesting incident occurred in the Van Deusen room concerning Miss Troxell's own book about the lamb. A small girl came to Miss Singley and asked for Elaine's Book." Miss Singley could think of no book which answered the question so she finally said to the youngster "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid we don't have it." "Oh, yes, you do came the answer, "I've had it lots of times. It's about a lamb. It's Elaine Troxell's book."

From that time "Pammy" was always called "Elaine's book" whenever Miss Troxell or Miss Singley mentioned it to each other.

Bible stories and books of prayers were of great interest to Miss Troxell. Stories from the Bible in simple language and suitable prayers for small children have been selected. The lovely Lathrop "Animals of the Bible", Petersham's "Christ Child" which is the story of the Nativity according to the gospel of St. Luke, and several lovely books of prayers are displayed on the center table.

Miss Troxell, with others, wrote a little book on trains called "On Shining Rails". While she was gathering material for it, she was a constant visitor in the Van Deusen room. Her research was endless, and even after the book was published, Miss Singley always notified her when a new book on transportation appeared. There are many fine books on all phases of transportation and we have added a number to the collection.

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After Miss Troxell retired she undertook a Parent Education project. Since she had shown her interest in work with parents as well as children, a number of books on parent education have been selected, the selection guided somewhat by the current demand for material on child care.

I have in my hand a book which is familiar to every one of you. It is Miss Troxell's "Language and Literature in the Kindergarten and Primary Grades" which appeared in 1927. Although written nearly twenty years ago, the spirit and theory of the contents is as

usable today as it was when it was published.

It seems more than fitting that books should have been chosen in commemoration of one whose thinking will reach far beyond the years in which she lived.

Louise Singley, Louise McLean. Kalamazoo Public Library.

At this time it is my very great privilege to dedicate these books as a living memorial to



Remarks made upon the occasion of the first annual report of the Eleanor Troxell bookshelves before the Kalamazoo Early Elementary Club. November 21, 1944.

I remember Miss Troxell as a kindly person. She had a friendly interest in the work of her colleagues. When she visited with a teacher, the affection for the teacher was mixed with consideration for her work.

You can't be a kindly person without liking people. She liked children and they knew it. When Miss Troxell came to a classroom she was regarded by the children as a combination of grandmother, teacher, favorite aunt, and fairy god-mother, all rolled into one. Looks of expectancy would light their faces, and, "Oh, tell us a story" would be heard from many corners. And — the stories she told! You heard some familiar ones; but we remember especially those she found in her own experience, and expressed in her own levely individual

words. Personal experience was the key to much of the success of her stories—a theme she frequently developed in her conferences with

teachers and in her writings.

I remember going into a first grade room one day when Miss Troxell was in the building and found her in the role of teacher, carrying on in this teacher's absence. It was a story about Epaminondas that time, I believe. When finished, the child-like questions drew answers of equal simplicity and sincerity from the narrator.

In all of this recital, I would not leave a fair impression with those of you who were not privileged to know her if I did not mention

another aspect of her personality.

T remember Miss Troxell as a purposeful person. She was a clear thinker, and acted according to clearly established purposes. She knew what she was doing in a classroom and could sense the moment a remark or action tended to deviate from the direction she was aiming, and with a firm and decisive gesture or remark would draw the little wanderer back to the fold.

I remember Miss Troxell as a fun-loving

person. It was at a principal's and supervisor's Thanksgiving party five years ago and we were making merry with an impromptu theatrical whose thrills were most hair raising. There was Dashing Dan, and the improvident parents, and the villain, but the spot was stolen by the heroine of the evening—the belle of the prairie-little Nell Troxell! Not an eye was dry as she pleaded for her life, her fortune, and her sacred honor! Yes, she was a fun-loving person.

I remember Miss Troxell as a lovely person. It was that quality of loveliness cited by the Master when he said, "The second (commandment) is like unto it—thou shalt love thy neighbor as

thyself."

In "Abou Ben Adhem," we see a man whose love for his fellow man caused his name to be written by the angel in the Book of God as one whom love of God had blessed. It is that sort of loveliness I associate with Miss Troxell.

That philosophy of life was beautifully set forth by her at one of the dinners tendered her upon the occasion of her retirement. You may recall that she told of the graces of her two beautiful half-sisters in her home. The

three little girls were out for a walk one day with their negro nurse, when a neighbor stopped to admire the children, particularly the little half-sisters. A great fuss was made over the charming little girls, much to our Eleanor's desolation. After the neighbor had walked on, Eleanor mourned to her nurse that she wished she was lovely like her sisters. "Never you mind, honey," the nurse replied. "Never you mind, if you's lovely inside." Those of us who knew Miss Troxell will attest to her living up to that childhood challenge.

As a final word, may I suggest a Biblical text for these humble remarks I have made today? "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; for what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

Colon L. Schaibly Principal, Roosevett School.



This year the Early Elementary Club plans to circulate this book in Miss Troxell's memory.

Many who knew her were unable to attend the dedication of the BOOK SHELVES, while others have wished to read again the lovely thoughts of her expressed in so many different ways at that time.

We hope those who loved her will feel again her delightful personality, her sincerity of purpose, her love and understanding, through the remembrances of her recorded here.

Doris Stockford.
President, Early Elementary Club

